

This past school year, students had an opportunity to attend more than 40 events, including plays in the region and in Boston, concerts in Brattleboro, Vt., and the Monadnock Music presentation of "The Messiah" in Jaffrey.

The school attracts talented staff members, including a clinical psychologist, William Dickerman, who teaches swimming and instrumental music. History teacher Galen Ritchie has a doctorate from Columbia. Houseparents Marjorie and Stephen Elliott have certification in physical therapy and a law degree, respectively. Theodore Pierce, instructor in music, has a master's degree from Boston University and has held a Juitard Graduate School fellowship.

Dr. Dickerman says the staff works there "for the fun of running such a school."

"We teach just the same things they teach in any other school, but the difference is that we are so close. Everyone feels so close to everyone else. We're a community," Mrs. Patey said.

On Aug. 9, Mrs. Patey resigned as director and became director emeritus of Hampshire Country School.

On the evening of Aug. 25, she fell and broke her hip. She is spending two weeks at the Monadnock Community Hospital in Peterborough and then will return to the school for several weeks of physical therapy before she resumes her job tutoring students in French and Spanish.

Mrs. Patey said her work has been a joy. "I wouldn't have had it any other way."

"But still, no place ever takes the place of the house in the woods in Wellesley. It was our dream house. I can see the woods from my windows here, but I'm too far from them. I can't be in them."